

val. It exhibits an unusual degree of activity in the operations of the Department during the past year. The preparation for the Japan expedition to which I have already alluded, the arrangements made for the exploration and survey of the China Seas, the Northern Pacific, and the Bering Strait, the important measures taken towards a reconnaissance of the Continent of Africa eastward of Liberia; the preparation for an early examination of the tributaries of the River La Plata, which a recent decree of the provisional chief of the Argentine Confederation has opened to navigation; all these enterprises, and the means by which they are proposed to be accomplished, have my full approval, and I could not will be productive of most useful results.

Two officers of the Navy were heretofore instructed to explore the whole extent of the Amazon river from the mouth of Peru to its mouth. The return of one of them has placed in possession of the Government an interesting and valuable account of the character and resources of a country abounding in the materials of commerce, and which, if opened to the industry of the world, will prove an inexhaustible fund of wealth. The report of this expedition will be communicated to you as soon as it is completed.

Among other subjects offered to your notice by the Secretary of the Navy, I select for special consideration, in view of its connection with the interests of the navy, the plan submitted by him for the establishment of a permanent corps of seamen, and the suggestion he has presented for the re-organization of the Naval Academy.

In reference to the first of these, I take occasion to say that I think it will greatly improve the efficiency of the service, and that I regard it as still more entitled to favor for the salutary influence it must exert upon the naval discipline, now greatly disturbed by the increasing spirit of insubordination, resulting from our present system. The plan proposed for the organization of the seamen furnishes a judicious substitute for the law of September, 1850, abolishing corporal punishment, and satisfactorily sustains the policy of that act, under conditions well adapted to maintain the authority of command and the order and security of our ships. It is believed that any change which proposes permanently to dispense with this mode of punishment, should be preceded by a system of enlistment which shall supply the navy with seamen of the most meritorious class, whose good deportment and pride of character may preclude all occasion for a harsh or degrading nature. The safety of a ship and her crew is often dependent upon immediate obedience to a command, and the authority to enforce it must be equally ready. The arrest of a refractory seaman, in such moments, not only deprives the ship of indispensable aid, but imposes a necessity for double service on others whose fidelity to their duties may be relied upon in such an emergency. The exposure to this increased and arduous labor, since the passage of the act of 1850, has already had, to a most observable and injurious extent, the effect of preventing the enlistment of the best of seamen in the navy. The plan now suggested is designed to promote a condition of service in which this objection will no longer exist. The details of this plan may be established in great part, if not altogether, by the Executive, under the authority of existing laws, but I have thought it proper, in accordance with the suggestion of the Secretary of the Navy, to submit it to your approval.

The establishment of a corps of apprentices for the navy, or boys to be enlisted until they become of age, and to be employed under such regulations as the Navy Department may devise, as proposed in the report, I cordially approve and I also concur in the suggestion that this system for the early training of seamen may be most usefully grafted upon the service of our merchant marine.

The other proposition of the report to which I have referred—the re-organization of the Naval Academy—I recommend to your attention as a project worthy of your encouragement and support. The valuable services already rendered by this institution entitle it to the continuance of your fostering care.

Your attention is especially called to the report of the Postmaster General, for the detailed operation of his Department during the last fiscal year, from which it will be seen that the receipts from postage for that time were less by \$1,441,690 than for the preceding fiscal year, being a decrease of about 13 per cent.

This diminution is attributable to the reduction in the interest of postage made by the act of March 3, 1851, which reduction took effect at the commencement of the last fiscal year.

Although in its operation during the last year the act referred to has not fulfilled the predictions of its friends, by increasing the correspondence of the country in proportion to the reduction of postage, I should nevertheless question the policy of reducing the higher rates. Experience warrants the expectation that as the community becomes accustomed to cheap postage, correspondence will increase. It is believed that, from this cause, and from the rapid growth of the country in population and business, the receipts of the Department must ultimately exceed its expenses, and that the country may safely rely upon the continuance of the present cheap rate of postage.

In former messages I have, among other things, respectfully recommended to the consideration of Congress the propriety and necessity of further legislation for the protection and punishment of former convicts residing in the United States; to revive with certain modifications the act of 10th March, 1838, to restrain unlawful military expeditions against the inhabitants of contiguous States or territories; for the preservation and protection from mutilation or theft of the papers, records, and archives of the nation; for authorizing the surplus revenue to be applied to the payment of the public debt in advance of the time when it will become due; for the establishment of land offices for the sale of the public lands in California and the Territory of Oregon; for the construction of a road from the Mississippi valley to the Pacific ocean; for the establishment of a bureau of agriculture, for the promotion of that interest, perhaps the most important in the country; for the prevention of frauds upon the Government in applications for pensions and bounty lands; for the establishment of a uniform fee bill, prescribing a specific compensation of every service required of clerks, district attorneys, and marshals; for authorizing an additional regiment of mounted men, for the defence of our frontiers against the Indians, and for fulfilling our treaty stipulations with Mexico to defend her citizens against the Indians "with equal diligence and energy as our own," for determining the relative rank between the naval and civil officers in our public ships, and between the officers of the Army and Navy in the various grades of each; for re-organizing the naval establishment by fixing the number of officers in each grade, and providing for a retired list upon reduced pay of those unfit for active duty; for prescribing and regulating punishments in the navy; for the appointment of a commission to revise the public statutes of the United States; by arranging, in order, supplying deficiencies, correcting inaccuracies, simplifying their language and reporting them to Congress for their final action; and for the establishment of a commission to adjudge and settle private claims against the United States. I cannot repeat

however, that any of these subjects have been finally acted upon by Congress. Without repeating the reasons for legislation on these subjects which have been assigned in former messages, I respectfully recommend them again to your favorable consideration.

I take it due to the several Executive Departments of this Government to bear testimony to the efficiency and in integrity with which they are conducted. With all the careful superintendence which it is possible for the Heads of those Departments to exercise, still the due administration, and guaranty of the public money must depend on the vigilance, intelligence, and fidelity of the subordinate officers and clerks, and especially on those entrusted with the settlement and adjustment of claims and accounts. I am gratified to believe that they have generally performed their duties faithfully and well. They are appointed to guard the approaches to the public Treasury, and they occupy positions that expose them to all the temptations and seductions which the cupidities of peculation and fraudulent defalcations can prompt them to employ. It will be but a wise preparation to protect the Government against that source of mischief and corruption, as far as it can be done, by the enactment of all proper legal penalties. The laws, in this respect, are supposed to be defective, and I therefore deem it my duty to call your attention to the subject, and to recommend that provision be made by law for the punishment not only of those who shall accept bribes, but also of those who shall either promise, give, or offer to give any of those offices or clerks, bails or reward touching or relating to any matter of their official action or duty.

It has been the uniform policy of this Government from its foundation to the present day, to abstain from all interference in the domestic affairs of other nations. The consequences have been that while the nations of Europe have been engaged in devastating wars, our country has pursued its peaceful course to a degree of prosperity and happiness. The wars in which we have been compelled to engage, in defence of the rights and honor of the country, have been fortunately of short duration. During the terrible contest of faction against nation, which succeeded the French revolution, we were enabled by the wisdom and firmness of President Washington to maintain our neutrality. While other nations were drawn into this wide sweeping whirlpool, we sat quiet and unmoved upon our own shores. While the flower of their numerous armies was wasted by disease or perished by hundreds of thousands on the battle field, the youth of this favored land were permitted to enjoy the blessings of peace beneath the paternal roof. While the States of Europe incurred enormous debts, under the burden of which their subjects still groan, and which must absorb no small part of the product of the best industry of those countries for generations to come, the United States have for once been enabled to exhibit the proud spectacle of a nation free from public debt; and, if permitted to pursue our prosperous way for a few years longer in peace, we may do the same again.

But it is now said by some that this policy must be changed. Europe is no longer separated from us by a voyage of months, but steam navigation has brought her within a few days' sail of our shores. We see more of her movements, and take a deeper interest in her controversies. Although no one proposes that we should join the fraternity of potentates who have for ages lavished the blood and treasure of their subjects in maintaining "the balance of power," yet it is said that we ought to interfere between warring sovereigns and their subjects, for the purpose of overthrowing the monarchies of Europe and establishing in their place republican institutions. It is alleged that we have heretofore pursued a different course from a sense of our weakness, but that now our conscious strength dictates a change of policy, and that it is consequently our duty to mingle in these contests and aid those who are struggling for liberty.

This is a most seductive but dangerous appeal to the generous sympathies of freedom. Enjoying we do the blessings of a free government, there is no man who has an American heart that would not rejoice to see these blessings extended to all other nations. We cannot witness the struggle between the oppressed and his oppressor anywhere without the deepest sympathy for the former, and the most anxious desire for his triumph. Nevertheless, it is prudent or it is wise to involve ourselves in these foreign wars? Is it indeed true that we have heretofore refrained from doing so merely from the degrading motive of a conscious weakness? For the honor of the patriots who have gone before us, I cannot admit it. Men of the Revolution who drew the sword against the oppressions of the mother country, and pledged to Heaven "their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor" to maintain their freedom, could never have been actuated by so unworthy a motive. They knew no weakness or fear where right or duty pointed the way, and it is a lie upon their fair fame for us, while we enjoy the blessings for which they so nobly fought and bled, to hesitate to imitate them.

The truth is that the course which they pursued was dictated by a stern sense of international justice, by a statesman-like prudence and far-seeing wisdom, looking not merely to the present necessities, but to the permanent safety and interest of the country. They knew that the world is governed less by sympathy than by reason and force; that it was not possible for this nation to become a "paganist" of free principles without arraying against it the combined powers of Europe; and that the result was more likely to be the overthrow of republican liberty here than its establishment there. History has been written in vain for those who can doubt this. France had no sooner established a republican form of government than she manifested a desire to force its blessings on all the world. Her own historian informs us that, bearing of some petty acts of tyranny in a neighboring principality. "The National Convention declared that she would afford succor and fraternity to all nations who wished to recover their liberty; and she gave it in charge to the executive power to give orders to the generals of the French armies to aid all citizens who might have been or should be oppressed in the cause of liberty." Here was the false step which led to her subsequent misfortunes. She soon found herself involved in war with all the rest of Europe. In less than ten years her government was changed from a republic to an empire; and finally, after shedding rivers of blood, foreign powers restored her exiled dynasty, and exhausted Europe sought peace and repose in the unquestioned ascendancy of monarchical principles. Let us learn wisdom from her example. Let us remember that revolutions do not always establish freedom.

Our own free institutions were not the offerings of our Revolution. They existed before. They were planted in the free characters of self government under which the English colonies grew up, and our Revolution only freed us from the domination of a foreign power, whose government was at variance with those institutions. But European nations have had no such training for self government, and every effort to establish it by bloody revolutions has been, and must, without preparation, continue to be a failure. Liberty, unsecured by law, degenerates into anarchy, which soon becomes the most horrid of all despotisms. Our policy is wisely to govern ourselves, and thereby to set such an example of national justice, prosperity and true glory, as shall teach to all nations the bless-

ings of self government, and the unparalleled enterprise and success of a free people.

We live in an age of progress, and ours is emphatically a country of progress. Within the last half century the number of States in this Union has nearly doubled; the population has increased quadrupled, and our boundaries have been extended from the Mississippi to the Pacific. Our territory is chequered over with railroads, and furrowed with canals. The inventive talent of our country is excited to the highest pitch, and the numerous applications for patents for valuable improvements distinguish this age as little people from all others. The genius of an American has enabled our commerce to move against wind and tide, and that of another has annihilated distances in the transmission of intelligence. The whole country is full of enterprise. Our common schools are diffusing intelligence among the people, and our industry is fast accumulating the comforts and luxuries of life. This is in part owing to our peculiar position, to our fertile soil, and comparatively sparse population; but much of it is also owing to the popular institutions under which we live, to the freedom which every man feels to engage in any useful pursuit, according to his taste, his inclination, and to the entire confidence that his person and property will be protected by the laws. But whatever may be the cause of this unparalleled growth in population, intelligence and wealth, one thing is clear, and that is, the Government must keep pace with the progress of the people. It must participate in their spirit of enterprise, and while it exerts obstacles to the laws, and restrains all unauthorized invasions of the rights of neighboring States, it should foster and protect home industry, and lend its powerful strength to the improvement of the means of internal communication as are necessary to promote our internal commerce and strengthen the ties which bind us together as a people.

It is not strange, however much it may be regretted, that such an enlargement of enterprise should cause some individuals to make changes in the present constitution. The former are constantly agitating for some change in the organic law, or urging new and untried theories of human rights. The latter are ever ready to engage in any wild crusade against a neighboring people, regardless of the rights of the nation, and without looking at the fatal consequences to ourselves and to the cause of popular government. Such expeditions, however, are often stimulated by mercenary individuals who expect to share the plunder or profit of the enterprise without exposing themselves to danger, and are led on by some irresponsible foreigner, who abuses the hospitality of our Government by seducing the young and ignorant to join in his schemes of personal ambition or revenge, under the false and delusive promise of extending the rights of freedom. These reprehensible aggressions retard the true progress of our nation, and tarnish its fair fame. They should, therefore, receive the indignant frowns of every good citizen who sincerely loves his country, and takes a pride in its prosperity and honor.

Our Constitution, though not perfect, is doubtless the best that ever was formed. It is the foundation of the nation, and it is the duty of every citizen to cherish it, and to change it only if it be found to be defective, and only after the most careful and deliberate consideration. Every patriot will rejoice to see its authority so exerted as to advance the prosperity and honor of the nation, whilst he will watch with jealousy any attempt to mutilate this charter of our liberties, or to pervert its powers to acts of aggression or injustice. Such shall conservation and progress blend their luminous action in preserving the form and spirit of the Constitution, and at the same time carry forward the great improvements of the country with a rapidity and energy which freedom only can effect.

In closing this my last annual communication, permit me to congratulate you on the prosperous condition of our beloved country. Abroad relations with all foreign powers are friendly; its rights are respected, and its high place in the family of nations cheerfully recognized. At home we enjoy an amount of happiness, public and private, which has probably never fallen to the lot of any other people. Besides affording to our own citizens a degree of prosperity, of which no larger scale I know of, no other country in the world is annually affording a refuge and a home to multitudes, altogether without example, from the Old World.

We owe these blessings, under Heaven to the happy Constitution and Government which was bequeathed to us by our fathers, and which it is our sacred duty to transmit in all their integrity to our children. We transmit to all their children the right of self government, and the privilege to elect their representatives to the administration of such a Government. Called by an unexpected dispensation to the highest trust of an anxious and alarmed people, I entered upon this arduous duty with extreme diffidence. I claim only to have discharged them to the best of a humble ability, with a single eye to the public good; and it is with devout gratitude, in raising from office, that I leave the country in a state of peace and prosperity.

MILLARD FILLMORE.

WASHINGTON, December 6, 1852.

We find an article in the London Times, of some months past, which should receive the discreet notice of those philanthropists who in our country, are declaring so recklessly with the future happiness of the American blacks:

"Our legislation has been dictated by the presumed necessities of the African slave. By the Emancipation Act, a large charge was assumed upon the colony in aid of civil and religious institutions for the benefit of the enfranchised negro, and it was hoped that these colored subjects of the British Crown would soon be assimilated to their fellow-citizens. From all the information which reaches us, no less than from the visible probabilities of the case, we are constrained to believe that these hopes have been fulfilled. The negro has not acquired, with his freedom, any habits of industry or morality. His independence is little better than that of an uneducated brute.

Having accepted a few of the restraints of civilization, he is amenable to few of its necessities; and the wants of his nature so easily satisfied, that at the current rate of wages he is called upon for nothing but filial or desultory exertion. Therefore the blacks, instead of becoming intelligent husband-men have become vagrants and failures of cultivation in the island, will come the squatters; and it is now apprehended that with the failure of its resources for instructing and controlling its population. So imminent does this consumption appear, that memorials have been signed by classes of colonial society hitherto standing aloof from politics, and not only the bench and the bar, but the bishop, clergy, and ministers of all denominations in the island without exception, that in the absence of timely relief, religious and educational institutions the island must be abandoned, and the masses of the population retrograde to barbarism."

Mr. Lemmon and family, minus eight slaves, left New York on the 25th ult., for Virginia in the steamer City of Norfolk, having abandoned the project of emigrating to Texas. His furniture, which has gone forward to New Orleans, will be recovered. Previous to his departure, he was paid \$5000 in sight drafts, which will be available on his arrival in Virginia. Mr. L. has given a guaranty that he will manumit the slaves after the termination of the legal process which have been or may be instituted to test the validity of Judge Payne's decision, whenever requested so to do by three of the subscribers to the indemnity—viz. Judge Payne, Walter R. Jones, and James Boorman. It is understood that if the manumission were to be carried into effect now it would put an end to the appeal which has been taken to the Supreme Court of New York, and prevent an appeal to a higher tribunal. It appears that \$200 more than required were subscribed, and the Journal of Commerce says it was agreed that the \$100 so liberally subscribed by Judge Payne, and the \$50 subscribed by Mr. Leppan, Lemmon's counsel, (who rendered his personal services gratuitously) ought to be returned to those gentlemen respectively—which has been done accordingly.

The verdict of the court in the case of Capt. Malone, is said to be one of acquittal, and the President has, consequently, ordered a new trial. It is stated that it was under the advice of General Scott that the president disapproved of the judgment in this case.

THE DEMOCRAT.

"Our Federal Union—it must be preserved."



COULMBUS, MISSISSIPPI.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1852.

Mr. H. P. DORTCH is our authorized agent to obtain new subscriptions to the Democrat and receipt for the same.

OUR APOLOGY.—Owing to the sickness of the hands in the office, we were unable to get out our paper last week at the regular time. We hope to be able, after the first of the coming year, always to issue our paper very early on Saturday mornings, and have all the packages sent to the Post Office on Friday evening. We expect to procure the services of a New York correspondent soon, and perhaps one in Washington and one in Mobile. This, of course, will add greatly to the interest of our columns.

We are indebted to the Hon. Stephen Adams for a copy, part 3rd of the documents accompanying the Presidents Message of 1851. These are important as containing many interesting statistics in regard to the public lands, the census of 1850 &c. &c.

We would invite particular attention to the address of Col. Gilmer to the voters of Lowndes. He speaks, in unadorned language, the ideas of a practical man, and he speaks with force and to the point. The subject is one of the highest importance to the people of the country. We shall have something to say upon it in our next.

Congressional Election.

Our correspondent, "A Re-Union Democrat," presents the name of Capt. WILLIAM BARKSDALE as a candidate to be run on the democratic ticket for Congress, and strongly urges his nomination by the party. The failure of our Legislature to re-elect the State has rendered it necessary for the Governor in issuing his writs of election, to order one member, at least, to be elected by general ticket, and it will be seen that this recommendation of our correspondent looks to the candidacy for the State at large.

An intimate personal acquaintance of long standing with Capt. BARKSDALE justifies us, we feel sure, in at once responding to and cordially endorsing this recommendation. In doing so, we certainly design not to moderate the merits or detract from the claims of other aspirants. Capt. BARKSDALE possesses naturally a vigorous intellect, which has been polished and improved by a classical education and the constant study of the best writers on law, history, politics, &c., &c. On all the leading questions of the day, he is intimately versed. He is a bold, fluent and efficient speaker, a ready and forcible writer. He has been prominently connected with most of the party movements in Mississippi for the last ten or twelve years, and has perhaps done as much for the democratic cause as any other man in this part of the State. His zeal, energy and talents have been universally acknowledged. In the Democratic State Convention of last winter he was nominated almost by acclamation as a candidate on the electoral ticket for the State at large, and though circumstances induced him to decline the nomination, yet all must see and admit, in the honor tendered him, the high appreciation in which his talents and services were held by that body. His political experience, extensive acquaintance with the people of the State and thorough knowledge of their opinions and wishes, united with his enlarged and purely democratic views on all subjects of state and national policy, in our estimation, eminently qualify him to represent us in Congress; and we agree with A Re-Union Democrat that "he is the man for the place."

GOODY'S LADY'S BOOK for January is a brilliant number in all its numerous engravings and embellishments. Its reading matter too seems unusually interesting. The "Book" is the pioneer magazine of its class, having reached the 23rd year of publication.

THE EDINBURGH REVIEW.—The October number received last week contains two articles particularly interesting to the American reader, viz: Life and Letters of Mr. Justice Story, and Japan. The articles on Representative Reform, and the late Election and Free Trade, are no doubt important from the political information which they contain. We have as yet had time only to glance over this number of the Edinburgh very hastily. When we have the leisure, we design to notice some of its articles more particularly.

CALIFORNIA.—The result of the Presidential election in this State has at length been ascertained. The majority for Pierce and King is about five thousand; the whole vote cast is estimated at seventy thousand. In the Legislature the democrats have twenty Senators out of twenty-seven, and about two-thirds of the members of Assembly. The whole democratic State ticket elected. Messrs. McDougall and Latham are chosen members of Congress.

KNEELER'S ALMANAC.—We have just been handed by Mr. Keeler his Almanac for 1853. It is got up as usual in very neat style, and contains all the useful practical information generally to be found in publications of the kind. The Publisher deserves the highest credit for his untiring labor and industry. His Almanac is "a work for every body" and is delivered gratis to all.

Lights and Shadows, or Beauties of the Columbus Argus.

The Argus is incorrigible. He still insists we stated that the Union question was a mere abstraction, and quotes a brief extract from an editorial of ours, published the 30th Oct. last, to prove his assertion. Possibly the language we then used was not the clearest to convey our idea. What we meant was simply that the democrats had been divided on the question of the right of secession, a question, which we conceived, had been settled, so far as any positive action was concerned, by the elections of 1851, and we took the position that it ought not therefore to operate any longer as a bone of contention and a ground of division in our ranks. When the question of "prompt and peaceable secession" was first started by Gov. Quitman in his message to the called session of the Legislature in 1850, it became a practical one and was so treated by us. It gave rise to the Union and resistance parties in this State, which overrode all others, and for the time broke down the old barriers between the democrats and whigs. We never stated, *totidem verbis*, that the Union question was a mere abstraction. Had we done so, we should have stultified ourselves and condemned our own course. But after the general acquiescence in the settlement of that question, the other question of the right of secession, became in our view a mere abstract one. We now again "flatly assert" that we never said the Union cause was a mere abstraction.

The Argus twits up about the want of memory. The glass house again! We never forget anything except an injury. It is he who is forgetful. He should remember that very many of the Union democrats and not a few perhaps of the Union whigs were, and always have been, the advocates of the right of secession by the States. But they were opposed to secession, opposed to resistance for what had been done. This constituted them *Union men pro hac vice*, and no one ought to quarrel with them about their views upon an abstract question.

Our neighbor's allusion to the pilot of *Aeneas* is an unfortunate one for him, at least it has no application to us. The story cuts the other way. To show this, we will quote Virgil's beautiful language. We are sorry we have not Dryden's translation before us in order that we might do justice to the Mantuan bard in English verse.—Virgil is describing, as no other writer knew how to describe, the near approach of the Trojan fleet to the shores of Italy, when the sad catastrophe happened to the hitherto watchful and always faithful Palinurus. The sailors are wrapped in sleep—*fast per dura sedilia*—when Somnus does his mission on the unfortunate pilot:

Vix primos inopina quies laxaverat artus;
Et super incubans, cum puppis parte revalas,
Cumque gubernaculo, liquidas project in undas
Prospiciens, ac socios iniquumque vocantem.

Had we suffered the *whig* Morpheus to lull us into a midnight slumber, we might have shared the sad fate of Palinurus, and sunk to rise no more; but we listened not to his soothing words—we thrust aside his "bough wet with Lethæan dew,"—stood erect on the democratic platform, our gubernaculum safe—our puppis uninjured, and as we neared the bright shore, with our commander, Pierce, (the *Pius Aeneas* of America), we were enabled, tho' an humble sailor, in the glorious voyage, to shout lustily, among the noblest Trojans of them all, ITALIA! ITALIA!

We regret that want of time and space to-day prevents us from noticing some of the other points attempted to be made by the Argus in the two articles which he addressed us last week. He has much pretty writing—many lights and shades and beauties, *sui generis*, which certainly deserve a notice. We will devote a column or two on our first page to his benefit next week, and will not forget the classics, that "pirate clan," nor even Dirk Hatteraick, the Smuggler; but it shall all be done in the best feeling imaginable. We assure our neighbor that we have not lost our temper as he intimates, nor have we furred our flag. He ought not to have taken in such high dudgeon our playful allusion to whig bragging and betting. But as that is evidently a tender point, we promise not to bring it up again. The Argus treats us with a quotation from that very beautiful *Epicurean* ode of Horace addressed by the poet to his friend Pompeius. To return the favor, we will give him two stanzas from the best and most patriotic ode that the greatest of Lyricists ever wrote. It is Horace singing, in immortal verse, the praises of Drusus:

Mores profundo, pulcherrime event:
Lactare, multa proceri integram
Cum laude virgine, gressuque
Praeclara conjugis laqueis.
Citharisti jan. non ego sumus
Mittam superbo: cecidit, cecidit
Spes omnis et fortuna nostri
Nominis, Iam, *Indubitate* interrupto.

We have italicized a portion and will give its application in our next. In the meantime will our neighbor furnish us with Dr. Francis' version of the quotation?

We are precluded from making any comments on the Presidents message to-day. That document is before our readers and they must judge of it for themselves.

FOUL AND BRUTAL MURDER.—The particulars of one bloody crime are hardly narrated ere our heart is sickened by the details of a most cowardly assassination, scarcely paralleled by the desperadoes of the Southwest. The victim was Col. James H. Sims, and the bloodthirsty fiend who perpetrated the foul deed, was John J. Edwards, the notorious desperado who fled from Alabama some years ago for the commission of a similar crime. It seems that Devil-Jack—the *soubriquet* given the assassin years ago for his deeds of blood—started from home on Wednesday morning to accompany and place John Edwards, his nephew, who on the evening previous had murdered Mr. Aiken, out of the reach of the law. In passing through DeKalb he induced Col. Sims to accompany him for the purpose of counseling John in regard to the affair. They were riding together in the Scooter swamp, about 11 miles from this place, having caught up with the wagon and were passing amicably together, when Edwards drew a pistol and, without a word of warning, shot Sims through the head from behind. The particulars are from one who witnessed the dastardly act. Sims lived until Thursday morning, and died in the presence of his wife and father.—*DeKalb Gazette*.

For the Columbus Democrat.

MR. EDITOR:—Through the period for our next Congressional election is some distance in the future, yet as the time is not far off when the Democracy will customarily assemble to select the defenders of its faith, we deem it proper to present now the name of one whom we think the most appropriate, to be run on the Congressional ticket for the State at large. We are further impelled by the consideration, that it would be culpable modesty, on the part of his friends to remain silent, whilst the *proprietaries* of others are so constantly heralded. We therefore suggest, to the Democracy of the State, the peculiar fitness of CAPT. WM. BARKSDALE for the position above indicated.

In the present posture of affairs, it behooves us to scan critically, the man whom we present as a candidate to the party—both his antecedents and concomitants. After the late party distraction, and the bitter asperity of feeling always incident to such divisions, in again organizing, we should present to the re-united party, those who are least objectionable as having provoked or indulged such bitterness. In freedom from such objections, no prominent man in the State occupies so enviable a position as CAPT. BARKSDALE. Deploring the divisions of the party—but believing the measures of compromise were not so grievous to the South as to demand resistance, he temporarily united with the Union organization. But in this association he never forgot the time-honored tenets of his democratic faith. And when some of these were assailed by his friends in the Convention, (of which he was a member) he became their defender—and vindicated them with great ability. Ever since he believed the mission of the Union party was accomplished he has labored with great assiduity and energy to restore harmony to the Democratic ranks. In addition to this, he is most thoroughly indoctrinated in the principles of Democracy, and has the ability to expound them fully and enforce them effectively. We therefore insist he is the man for the place.

A RE-UNION DEMOCRAT.

To the Voters of Lowndes County.

You will no doubt be called upon before long to say, by your votes, whether you will aid in the construction of the Mobile and Ohio rail road and a branch to Columbus or not. When the proposition was submitted to you before, there were persons appointed to address you at several points in the County, presuming there were many good citizens who would like a subject of this magnitude fully discussed, that they might understand the subject and vote on its merits; but unfortunately, for the want of sufficient information, was lost. The smallness of the vote by which it was lost, and the erroneous views taken by many who have been better informed, and the circumstances now attending, besides the alterations made in the propositions to be submitted, induces the belief that another trial will be successful.

All the objections to the former proposition, if not answered satisfactorily, are now with but few exceptions, entirely removed. To silence every objection is not expected. God himself, with all his wisdom, could not devise a plan to suit each and every man. Some seem so prone to be so touchy of their own opinions, that to suit a case to meet their views would be doing far more than they can do themselves. I will admit, on the former trial, there was an objection arising from the want of faith in the promises of the citizens of Columbus, that had some color of an objection founded only in their poor opinion of its citizens. This objection has been shown to be ill-founded, for when the voters of Columbus were called upon to redeem their pledge it was done with a greater unanimity than the most sanguine could have anticipated. It was objected to the amount proposed, being not enough, there would be calls after calls for more, or what was obtained would be squandered and no road made; it was also fully believed the amount to make the branch, with the bridge, would require so much to make the branch, that all hope of ever raising a sufficient sum, was put beyond the possibility of ever raising the amount required. This objection is now put to rest, having the estimate of the chief engineer, who assures us that the amount now proposed is sufficient for both roads. The amount to be sure is considerably larger than before, but still greatly less than many supposed, and yet far below what the people of this County can raise without materially interfering with the ordinary business of all classes of the community. It was objected to the proposition before, that it compelled those who were opposed to investing anything, to do so against their will. This objection, strange to say, was made by the very men who professed to believe in the will of the people, and that by a bare majority, and yet, when a majority of two-thirds is required, the will of the people should not be obeyed. This is Democracy with a vengeance. If the good of the country is to be promoted, who so competent to judge of the good contemplated as the people themselves? and if a general good is produced, should not every man contribute in proportion to the amount of the benefit? One might say he has no business in Court, he should not be forced to contribute to build a Court House. Another might assume the ground that he was opposed to war, believed that his interest was vastly injured by it, still as the benefits resulting to the whole community is promoted by having a Court House, or by the conflict of arms, it is nothing but right, opposed or not, he should bear his part in proportion to the supposed or actual benefit derived. Good roads are believed to be beneficial to every citizen, yet one might say because he has no produce to carry on those roads he should not be made to aid in their construction, yet as he cannot but be benefited, let his opinion be what it may, he should be made to contribute.

Can it be possible that there is one individual who is so selfish, so narrow-minded, as not to desire to see the whole community prosperous and happy. If such a result could be brought about, would not the interest of all be promoted? If then the contemplated improvement will benefit all should not all bear their proportionable part of the burden? The answer to say no man in his senses or worthy of a place among his fellow-men can object, but on the contrary, would feel himself slighted and mis-treated not to be allowed to aid his proportionable part in such an undertaking. To arrive at a perfect equality of aid, is not to be expected, nor can it be expected that those who are able and willing to do a great deal, to do so, unless they see a willingness on the part of others to aid in some degree. The plan proposed to raise the necessary aid for the completion of these roads being so equitable, so just, and at the same time so easily borne, that it is believed no one will object, for I apprehend if any one had as a great indignity had been offered him, which would not have been submitted to very quietly. Every good citizen feels it to be his right and privilege to serve his country, to aid in promoting the common good, and wants no exemption; still there are those, while they claim no exemption, will fold their